BUENA VISTA AUDUBON SOCIETY

LAGOON FLYER

VOLUME 44 | NUMBER 4 | APRIL 2015

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Photo credit: Wikipedia - Fir0002

BACKYARD BEEKEEPING

"EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW" WITH DENNIS JOVE

Wednesday, April 15

6:30 p.m. Social—7 p.m. Program

There was a time not so long ago when the very idea of harboring bees in one's backyard was considered as silly as those "Killer Bees" comedy sketches on Saturday Night Live. Back then, we were afraid of the plague of ill-tempered Africanized bees that were quickly colonizing their way toward San Diego. Things seem different now. The Africanized bees have mellowed a bit as they've hybridized with San Diego's more laid-back strain of European bees. We've also learned more about living safely in the presence of bees, something we didn't seem to worry that much about in the old days. The public now seems more willing to tolerate bees in their midst, due perhaps to an increased awareness of the importance of bees as pollinators of our food crops and ornamental gardens. Our fear of bees has, at least in part, been replaced by concern for the plight of the honey bees in the face of bee mites and bee hive collapse syndrome.

Dennis Jove calls himself a bee chaser. He is a passionate advocate of responsible backyard beekeeping, and knows what it takes to turn that angry buzz into a gentle hum. His program will deal with the current status of bees in San Diego, threats that remain to the bee population, and possible cures. We'll also learn about the changing rules and regulations regarding beekeeping within the County and various San Diego municipalities. Of particular interest, Dennis will have all the interesting tools of his trade on display at his talk. He'll discuss various hive designs, the use of smoke, honey collecting, extraction, and placement of hives.

The natural history of bees is like a honey pot brimming with golden lore. Dennis will help unravel all the mysteries of these age-old friends of man.

OCEANSIDE NATIVE GARDEN TOUR

APRIL 19—IT'S TIME TO GO WILD! (SEE P. 5.)

MARCH MEMBER PHOTO OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to Susan Heller, whose photo of a mourning dove family nesting on her patio won her "Photo of the Month" honors for March. Susan sent in several wonderful bird photos last month, including one of a cute burrowing owl she encountered on a February trip to the Salton Sea. We shared Susan's photo of the charismatic owl with our friends on the BVAS Facebook page. Susan will be receiving a certificate acknowledging her winning photo.

SEND US YOUR PHOTOS!

Snowy egret

BVAS would like to feature more member photos on its Facebook page and in the Lagoon Flyer. Send your nature-related photo(s) as an e-mail jpg attachment to our newsletter editor at akamauro1@gmail.com. If your photo gets selected as the "Member Photo of the Month," it will be featured in the newsletter and you'll receive a special certificate acknowledging your accomplishment!

NATALIE SHAPIRO JOINS THE BVAS BOARD

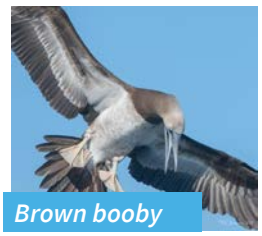
Natalie Shapiro has become the newest member of the BVAS Board of Directors, taking over in March as the chapter's new Publicity Chair. Natalie has been a BVAS Nature Guide since moving here in 2012. She has a background in environmental advocacy, fundraising, outreach, education, and media relations with small, non-profit, environmental organizations in Idaho and Oregon. She earned her Master's Degree in Environmental Studies in Montana in 2010, focusing on Watershed Sciences. Since then she's worked for governmental agencies, helping to collect field data on hydrology and water quality. Her passions are protecting wild places and engaging citizens to connect with their local natural lands. "We have such a great Nature Center and phenomenal programs," says Natalie. "I want everyone to know about us!"

MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

Also in March, the BVAS Board hired Janice Osborne to be the new BVAS Membership/Circulation Coordinator. Jan will be a part-time employee, with responsibility for updating and maintaining the membership database, and overseeing newsletter distribution and membership mailings. She comes to BVAS with a strong background as an administrative assistant, with extensive experience with spreadsheets and database management. Welcome to BVAS, Jan!

SAN DIEGO RARE BIRD ALERT

"San Diego Region Birding" is the official Rare Bird Alert (RBA) and birding discussion group for the San Diego region. It is run by San Diego Field Ornithologists (SDFO). SDFO is a non-profit organization that promotes the advancement of field ornithology (birding) through educational programs, publication of information and the encouragement of record-keeping. For info about SDFO and about signing up for the free Rare Bird Alert listserv, visit the SDFO website at: sandiegofieldornithologists.org.



Brown booby

NEW PELAGIC BIRDING WEBSITE FOR BVAS

BVAS is restructuring its pelagic birding website to better reflect a primary focus on pelagic birds and birding trips originating out of San Diego. The website is being updated to provide better links to trip schedules, a seasonal distribution chart for pelagic bird species off San Diego, identification tips, trip reports, pelagic bird photos, and more. For complete information about pelagic birding off San Diego, please visit the BVAS pelagic birding website: sandiegopelagics.com. A google search for "socalbirding" or "San Diego pelagic birding" will also direct you to the website.

BIRDING IN APRIL

April is the busiest month of the year for breeding activity in San Diego. Look for courtship feeding among least terns, now arriving for the nesting season. Male birds of most locally breeding species are singing conspicuously. Nest-building activity can be easily observed. Willow, mule fat, broom, etc. go to seed and provide soft cotton lining material for nests. Many of our wintering birds leave during April. The San Diego Rare Bird Alert listserv will be hopping in April with reports of waves of migrating birds passing through.

WHELAN LAKE BIRD SANCTUARY WALK

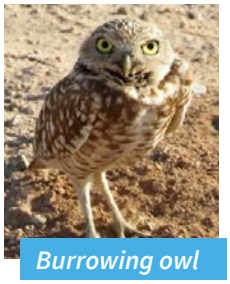
Saturday, April 4—8 a.m.

April is an exciting month to visit Whelan Lake. The willows along the south side of the lake are alive with songbirds, both resident species setting up housekeeping, and migrant species taking a brief pause before continuing north. Of course, they'll be sharing the willow thicket with our nesting horned owl, whose curious owlets should be staring down in wide-eyed wonder at all the visiting birders.

Directions: I-5 to Hwy. 76 East; turn left at Douglas Dr.; continue to the light at North River Rd.; go left on North River Rd. Pass through the entrance gate and follow the signs to the lake.

Leader: John Haddock, 760-941-7824.

SAN DIEGUITO RIVER PARK BIRD WALK



Burrowing owl

Saturday, April 18—8 a.m.

The April walk will meet at the San Andres Dr. trailhead east of I-5. This is an especially convenient birding site for people with mobility issues. The elevated trail provides an excellent vantage point for views of shorebirds and waterfowl. A small willow riparian outcropping near the trailhead now provides habitat for several species of resident songbirds, as well as a haven for small birds in migration.

San Andres Dr. Trailhead—From I-5, take Via de la Valle east; turn right (south) on San Andres Dr. and go to end of road.

Leader: John Haddock, 760-941-7824.

BASIC BIRDING WORKSHOP AND BUENA VISTA LAGOON BIRD COUNT

White-tailed kite

Saturday, April 25—8 a.m.

Join the BVAS birders for our basic birding workshop and bird count at Buena Vista Lagoon. No experience necessary. We meet at the Nature Center at 8 a.m. and then caravan around the lagoon to a series of selected stops for some friendly, informal, no-pressure birding.

Directions: Meet at the Nature Center parking lot, 2202 South Coast Hwy., Oceanside.

Leaders: Joan Fountain, 760-729-1379; Tom Troy, 760-420-7328.

BVAS MIGRATING BIRDERS

Hurry! Just Two Spots Open for Canada Trip in Late June--

Canada trip in late June: The "Summer in Northern Alberta" trip will go from June 24-July 5 and will highlight the breeding birds of Canada's Rocky Mountains and boreal forest. The group will be on the hunt for more than 20 species of "eastern" warblers and up to 20 different sparrows. This tour will also be a full-service package led by Steve Shunk.

More information available: Trip flyers for the Canada trip are at the Nature Center or on the Paradise Birding website *paradise-birding.com*. For questions, call Janine Free (760-908-7334), or Steve Shunk (541-408-1753).

ANSTINE PRESERVE BIRD WALK

Hooded Oriole

Sunday, April 12—8 a.m.

Join us on this special tour of the Anstine Nature Preserve in Vista, owned and managed by San Diego Audubon. The birds will be actively engaged in their springtime rituals, with resident songbirds courting and nest-building, and other species preparing for the next leg on their northward migration. BVAS has been given behind-the-scenes access to this North County nature sanctuary, on a day and hour when it is normally closed to the public. Anstine personnel will be on hand to provide an orientation to the preserve and its restored habitat, and help us ID the many wildflowers and native plants we'll encounter along the trails.

Directions: From the I-5 freeway, take Hwy. 76, and head east. Go right on E. Vista Way, then right on Hutchinson. Follow Hutchinson around the curve, and the preserve is on the left after the wooden fence.

Leader: Steve Brad, 760-633-1639. Day-of-trip, 760-274-5256

SECOND THURSDAY SURPRISE WALK

Thursday, April 9,--8 a.m.

Join our weekday surprise-location bird walk on the second Thursday of each month. Where we go is based on recent reports and Steve's personal surveying. If you'd like to get on the Second Thursday Walk notification list, please send an e-mail with your name, phone number and e-mail address to: stevebrad1@earthlink.net.

Leader: Steve Brad, 760-633-1639. Day-of-trip 760-274-5256.

BVAS SPRING PELAGIC BIRDING TRIP

Information and Registration.

See the BVAS pelagic website for details about all pelagic birding activities: sandiegopelagics.com. As in recent years, all trips will be on board the Grande, operating out of Point Loma Sportfishing. Call Point Loma Sportfishing directly to register and pay for your trip: 619-223-1627. Birders are encouraged to call and sign up early for the trips to take advantage of significant early bird discount prices.

Saturday, April 25—6:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. The BVAS pelagic birding season will kick off with a 10-hour trip on Saturday, April 25. The boat will tour coastal San Diego County waters, the 9-Mile Bank, and the San Diego Trench. This is a great introductory trip, with a mix of spring migrants and lingering winter birds expected.

Saturday, May 16—6:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Our popular "Spring Migration" 12-hour trip goes to the farthest reaches of San Diego County waters—the 30-Mile Bank—to look for seabirds seen only occasionally or rarely in San Diego County. This is an excellent time of year for such sought-after species as black-footed albatross, ashy storm-petrel, South Polar skua, and Scripps's murrelet. We'll also expect to encounter three or four species of dolphins, plus as many as five species of whales.

Sunday, June 13—7 a.m.-7 p.m. Our "Early Summer" June trip will be the last opportunity to take a BVAS pelagic birding trip until September. Look for more details in the May newsletter, or on the BVAS pelagic birding website.

$10,000 RECEIVED FROM BUENA VISTA LAGOON FOUNDATION

The Buena Vista Lagoon Foundation has fulfilled its earlier pledge and donated $10,000 to the Ridgway's Rail Society Fund to go toward the purchase of the 3.5-acre lagoon parcel across the street from the Nature Center. Regg Antle, long-standing president of the Foundation, presented the $10,000 check to the BVAS Board of Directors at their March meeting. Foundation members and friends donated the funds for the contribution in response to a matching fund challenge grant made by an anonymous Foundation member. BVAS thanks our sister organization for this very generous donation and its tireless advocacy over the years on behalf of the Buena Vista Lagoon.

The fundraising campaigns for both the 3.5-acre lagoon parcel and the 31-acre San Luis Rey parcel continue to move forward. The California Wildlife Conservation Board is now considering major grants for both parcels. As of March 1, a total of 225 individuals and organizations have sent in donations and pledges totaling over $300,000. In addition, the U.S Navy has pledged up to $2 million for acquisition, restoration, and management of the San Luis Rey parcel. If you haven't done so yet, please consider joining the Ridgway's Rail Society and helping BVAS purchase and restore these two important properties.

RECENT CONTRIBUTIONS

$10,000: Buena Vista Lagoon Foundation.

$1,000-$4,999: Mary Jane Roberts.

$500-$999: Janell Cannon (in memory of Nancy A. Cannon); Stephen & Amelie Scarano.

$100-$499: Don & Teresa Barth; Susan Breisch; Robert & Lois Chaddock; Kasey Cinciarelli; June Collins; Richard Dempsey; James Determan; Marilyn Hendron; Winifred Ho; F. Lane; Kathy Lockridge; Sandpiper Cove Owners Association.

$1-$99: Charles & Gertrude Banks; Karen Bennick; Frances Browne; Fred & Elyse Cole; Norma Cooper; Warren C. Cotton; Carol Culin; Kathleen Dickey; Julian Duval; Marha Edrickson; Linda Ergonis; Terry Feguson; Steve & Sharon Fisher; Robert & Jan Fisher; Marion Foerster; Larry French; Elizabeth Fuchs; Michael & Lisa Gonzales; Carol Johnson; Mary Johnson; Nancy Jones; Elizabeth Kruidenier; Jeanne Mielcarek; Cam Miller; Hans Ostro; Gervais Pimentel; Richard Reynolds; J. Daniel & Dorothy Seckelmann; Dolores Scott; Gayle Sides; Palmer Taylor; Sharon & Bill Towery; Pamela & Gary Van Velsire; Linda & John Viggianelli; Scott & Stephanie Witte.

2015 BIRDHOUSE AUCTION

As the countdown for the 2015 Birdhouse Auction was nearing its final days in mid-March, birdhouses were beginning to accumulate at the Nature Center. Every available shelf and counter sported a sampling of the donated masterpieces, much to the delight of the daily visitors coming by to take an advance peek at the goods. Among the early crowd favorites were those donated by Larry Bowers, who at last count, had contributed an amazing array of nine different birdhouses and feeders. Larry's creations were all unique, beautifully hand-crafted masterpieces built and finely finished in his home woodworking shop. They included multi-unit bird diners, a series of trailer birdhouses, an adobe casita, Solvang-inspired cottages, and a large, wood-shingled, octagonal feeding station. Thank you, Larry!

Want to Join the BVAS or support the Fund? Just fill out this form:

MEMBERSHIP/DONATIONS

☐ **I would love to be become a member!** ☐ **I'm already a member, but want to help out more.**

As a Friend of BVAS, I will receive the chapter newsletter, be invited to special events just for Friends and receive a discount on BVAS Gift Shop purchases. The BVAS Nature Center and its programs will receive 100% of my contribution. Minimum donation suggested: $25.

☐ I have no internet access and would prefer a printed copy of the monthly newsletter.

Check One: ☐ Buena Vista Audubon Society ☐ Ridgway Rail Society Fund

Amount $ _____ Check/Card # _____ Exp. Date _____ CVR _____

Make Checks Payable to: Buena Vista Audubon P.O. Box 480, Oceanside, CA 92049

☐ I would like to learn more about the Ridgway Rail Society, please contact me.

CONTACT INFO

Name _____

Address _____ City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

BVAS NATIVE PLANT CLUB

OCEANSIDE NATIVE GARDEN TOUR

April 19, 2 p.m.

St. Mary's School—515 Wisconsin Ave., Oceanside

Get Inspired! This is it—our chance to see local native gardens adorned in their springtime finery! Come see 20 California native plant gardens in the historic Seaside neighborhood of downtown Oceanside. Plant experts and neighborhood locals lead an informative 1.5-mile walking tour to see these wonderful front yard gardens. The guided walk is free. Donation requested for map and plant list. Local kids sell lemonade and cookies along the route. St. Mary's School is one block east of the 101 Cafe at Coast Hwy. and Wisconsin Ave. This annual event is sponsored by the Buena Vista Native Plant Club and the Oceanside Coastal Neighborhood Association. Go to BVAudubon.org or OCNA.info, or call the Buena Vista Nature Center at 760-439-2473 for more information.

GARDEN WORK PARTY

Morning with the Natives

Every Monday - 10 a.m.

Interested gardeners are invited to join the gardening group at the Nature Center every Monday at 10 a.m. for some casual gardening and friendly chatter.

SCHOOL NATIVE PLANT GARDENS

The Buena Vista Native Plant Club sponsors six school native plant gardens. If you are available on weekday mornings, please join us at one of these Oceanside schools as we help the students tend to their gardens. Here's our schedule: Wed., 9 a.m.-- Mission Elementary; Wed., 10 a.m.-- Laurel Elementary; Fri., 9 a.m.-- Ditmar School. We also have periodic workdays at St. Mary's Elementary in Oceanside, Vista High School, and The Winston School in Del Mar.

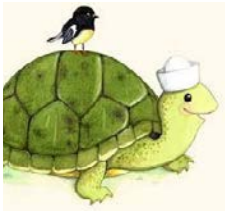
Questions about Natives? Bring your questions about native gardening to one of the regularly scheduled school native plant garden workdays, and talk to our native plant expert, Joan Bochman. If you can't do that, leave your name and question at the Nature Center desk and Joan will get back to you.

WHAT ABOUT YOU?

BVAS always has a need for new active volunteers. Whether to host for the Nature Center, lead nature tours of the Center and its grounds as a Nature Guide, lend a hand in the native garden, or even bartend at the Birdhouse Auction—there is an unlimited number of ways one can become involved. Please call Volunteer Coordinator Bob Crowell and he'll help you find your special place at BVAS.

PRESCHOOL NATURE STORYTIME

Monday, April 27, 10 a.m.



Who carries his home on his back? Mr. Turtle, that's who! At our April Storytime we'll find out how much we know about turtles. We'll have a story, songs, a fun craft, and we'll try to guess what is in our Surprise Box that morning.

Questions? Call Mary Ellen: 760-918-6622.

KIDS' CORNER AT THE NATURE CENTER

Joey's and Johnny's Clubhouse

Third Sunday, April 19 --1-4 p.m.

Kids and parents are invited to stop by the Nature Center for some informal nature fun.

BVAS OFFICERS, BOARD*, AND CHAIRS

President	Dave Billings*	760-753-7925
Vice-President	Dennis Huckabay*	760-757-6437
Secretary	Kathy Billings*	760-753-7925
Treasurer	Sandy McMullen*	760-944-5690
Bird House Auction	Kelly Deveney	760-721-2441
Board Member	Jacques Domercq*	760-583-1961
Center Manager	Annette Schneider	760-945-8891
Christmas Bird Count	Andy Mauro*	760-753-1266
Conservation Co-Chair	Danny DiMento*	858-688-6891
Conservation Co-Chair	Joan Herskowitz*	760-942-5167
Education Chair	Fran MacNeel	760-929-9158
Facilities/Exhibits	Danny DiMento*	858-688-6891
Field Trip Leader	Steve Brad*	760-633-1639
Gift Shop	Susie Martin*	760-580-9440
Graphics Coordinator	J.J. Springer	818-859-8244
Library	C. J. DiMento	760-231-9096
Membership/Circulation	Janice Osborne	bvaudubon.@sbcglobal.net
Migrating Birders Trips	Janine Free*	760-908-7334
Native Plant Club & Native Plant Garden	Joan Bockman*	760-433-9401 BVNPC@sbcglobal.net
Nature Storytime	Mary Ellen Marquand	760-918-6622
Newsletter Editor	Andy Mauro*	akamauro1@gmail.com
Outreach Booth	Susie Martin*	760-580-9440
Pelagic Birding	socalbirding.com	
Programs	Dennis Huckabay*	760-757-6437
Publicity	Natalie Shapiro*	bloomingtrillium@yahoo.com
Ridgway's Rail Society	Andy Mauro*	760-753-1266
Ruddy Duck Club	***Open Position***	***Contact Bob Crowell***
Volunteers	Bob Crowell*	760-207-3884 kbcrowell@cox.net
Webmaster	Larry Spann	larry@spannweb.net

BUENA VISTA AUDUBON NATURE CENTER

Tuesday-Saturday — 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Sunday—1 p.m.-4 p.m.

Location:
2202 South Coast Hwy.
Oceanside, CA
(East side of street on north shore of lagoon)

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 480
Oceanside, CA 92049

Phone:
760-439-2473

BVAS Website:
bvaudubon.org
We are also on Facebook!

E-mail:
bvaudubon@sbcglobal.net

LAGOON FLYER
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BVAS QUICK CALENDAR

Fri. Apr. 3	Board Meeting	9 a.m.
Sat. Apr. 4	Whelan Lake Bird Walk	8 a.m.
Thurs. Apr. 9	Second Thursday Surprise Bird Walk	8 a.m.
Fri. Apr. 10	Nature Guides Meeting	9:30 a.m.
Sun. Apr. 12	Anstine Preserve Bird Walk	8 a.m.
Wed. Apr. 15	General Meeting and Program "Backyard Beekeeping "	6:30 p.m.
Sat. Apr. 18	San Dieguito Bird Walk	8 a.m.
Sun. Apr. 19	Joey's and Johnny's Clubhouse	1 p.m.
Sun. Apr. 19	BVAS Booth at O'side Earth Festival	8 a.m.
Sun. Apr. 19	O'Side Native Garden Tour	2 p.m.
Sat. Apr. 25	Basic Birding and Lagoon Bird Count	8 a.m.
Mon. Apr. 27	Preschool Nature Storytime	10 a.m.

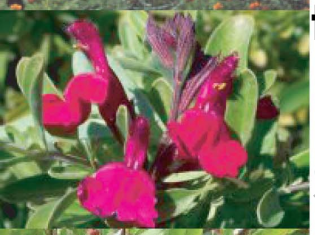
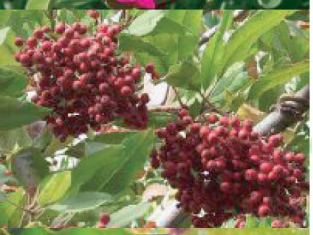
COMING IN MAY

Endangered Species program and Open House.

Photo Credits: Many thanks to Tom Blackman, Steve Brad, Susan Heller, Chris Mayne, and Vic Murayama.

STRIKING GOLD IN SAN DIEGO

The Pacific golden-plover is a special bird in San Diego. It is really an Asian-Pacific bird, with only a few specimens slipping over from Russia and venturing down the coastline toward San Diego each year. Until recently, it was difficult to distinguish this species from its close cousin, the American golden-plover, which is much more widely distributed across North America. But much to the delight of local and visiting birders, a verified Pacific golden-plover has been hanging out in the San Dieguito Lagoon, just west of the fairgrounds, for several months. The BVAS Thursday Surprise Bird Walk group had the plover as its target bird for March, and scored a hit. The rare bird was there for all to see, the golden highlights on its back glittering in the sun.

Arctostaphylos refugioensis

Muhlenbergia rigens

Artemisia californica

Oenothera hookeri

Baccharis glutinosa

Rhamnus californica

13th Annual California Native Plant Garden Tour

Eriogonum fasciculatum

Sunday April 19th 2pm

Romneya coulteri

Eschscholzia californica

Over 15 Native Plant Gardens in the Historic Seaside Neighborhood in Downtown Oceanside!

Salvia leucophylla

Galvezia speciosa

Free guided 1.5 mile walking tour.
Donation Requested for map.

Salvia Clevelandia

Meet at St. Mary's School,
515 Wisconsin Avenue,
(one block east of the 101 Café,
Coast Highway and Wisconsin St)

Heteromeles arbutifolia

Salvia mellifera

Mahonia Golden Abundance

Buena Vista Native Plant Club
BVAudubon.org
Oceanside Coastal Neighborhood Association OCNA.info

Eschscholzia californica

Mimulus aurantiacus